

REMARKS

Claims 2-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is cancelled and claims 2-11 are amended. In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Objections to Claims

Claims 1-11 are objected to because of various informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in order to overcome the objections. In particular, Applicants have replaced the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein," and have rewritten the claims in conventional method format. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first Paragraph

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as non-enabled. Applicants submit that the amended claims overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second Paragraph

Claims 2, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 2, 9 and 10, as set forth above, overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Satas (Handbook of Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Technology, 1989); and claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 08-257484. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Satas and JP '484 do not disclose a method for forming an adhesive layer comprising (1) putting adhesive layer formation media coated with adhesive materials and at least one workpiece into a container, and (2) vibrating or stirring in the container the adhesive layer

formation media and the at least one workpiece so that the adhesive layer formation media and the at least one workpiece collide with each other, thereby forming an adhesive layer on the surface of the workpiece, as recited in claim 2.

Satas discloses a carrier-free pressure sensitive adhesive film that consists of a homogeneous adhesive coating covered with release paper, as discussed on page 4 of the Office Action and on page 699 of Satas. An adhesive layer is formed on a surface by placing the pressure sensitive adhesive film in contact with a surface and applying pressure to the pressure sensitive adhesive film to thereby form an adhesive layer on the surface. See, for example, page 699 of Satas. Importantly, the method does not comprise putting adhesive layer formation media coated with adhesive materials and at least one workpiece into a container, nor does the method comprise vibrating and stirring in the container the adhesive layer formation media and the at least one workpiece. Thus, Satas is inapplicable to independent claim 2. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Satas is respectfully requested.

JP '484 discloses a method of applying a coating material (a) to a substrate (8). See, for example, the Abstract. The method comprises applying the coating material (a) to the tip of a pen (11), positioning the pen (11) directly above the substrate (8), lowering the pen (11) downward toward the substrate (8) until the tip of the pen (11) contacts the plate surface of the substrate (8), and raising the pen (11) from the plate surface of the substrate (8). The contact between the tip of the pen (11) and the plate surface of the substrate (8) results in depositing the coating material (a) onto the plate surface of the substrate (8). See, for example, Figs. 7(a)-7(f). This method of forming an adhesive layer is not equivalent to the method recited in claim 2. Importantly, the method does not comprise putting adhesive layer formation media coated with adhesive materials and at least one workpiece into a container, nor does the method comprise vibrating and stirring in the container the adhesive layer

formation media and the at least one workpiece. Thus, Satas is inapplicable to independent claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP '484 in view of Charles (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0032280). This rejection is respectfully traversed.


Charles fails to remedy the deficiencies of JP '484. Accordingly, the combination of references fails to disclose all the features recited in claims 6-9. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 24, 2007

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